

AROUND THE CORPS IN BRIEF

Homeland Security ...



Lance Cpl. Sarah A. Beavers  
**TERRA ALTA, W.Va. - A Marine passes by local residents as he patrols Terra Alta, W.Va., during the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit’s Training in an Urban Environment Exercise on May 14.The Marine is with Charlie Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn., 2nd Marines. TRUEX helps prepare the Marines for urban combat scenarios they may encounter during their upcoming deployment.**

GENERAL,  
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He spent a number of years in recruiting and that experience has lead him to bigger responsibilities within that area of expertise.

“You hear a lot about this being an all-volunteer recruiting force, well it’s not, it’s an all recruited force,” said Brig. Gen. McMenamin. “You have these young Staff NCOs, the sergeants, staff sergeants and gunnys out there looking for young men and women. They are working hard every day looking for the quality young men and women who have what it takes to be United States Marines, and that takes hard work and dedication.”

Learning from the experiences he gained in the late ‘80s while serving as the commanding officer of Recruiting Station, Cincinnati, he applied that knowledge on a broader scope to his job aboard the Depot and in the Eastern Recruiting Region.

“Recruiting teaches you a lot of valuable lessons,” said Brig. Gen. McMenamin. “There are only three things that test the mettle of an individual other than getting shot at: cold weather training, a 25-mile hike or a three-year stint on recruiting duty. You learn more about yourself internally — intestinal fortitude, courage, determination, drive and integrity — on recruiting duty than you will in any other billet in the Marine Corps, with the exception of being a commander in a combat situation.”

That experience came early for Brig. Gen. McMenamin, as he started his Marine Corps career in combat, according to Maj. Gen. Tom Jones, Commanding General, Training and Education Command, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Va.

Major General Jones sees that experience as a determining factor in Brig. Gen. McMenamin’s suc-

cess aboard the Depot.

As far as having somebody that is in charge of molding Marines and making Marines, he was the perfect choice, said Maj. Gen. Jones.

“He is a guy who is fundamentally as strong as they come,” he said. “He has been on recruiting duty twice and he has commanded on the company level and the battalion level, so he has got the perfect mix of both training and recruiting.”

Those skills served Brig. Gen. McMenamin well, as he encountered continual success throughout his tenure here.

“We have done a lot of things here to make the Depot better,” said Brig. Gen. McMenamin. “The biggest thing that we just completed is the base master plan that is going to take what we are doing now all the way into the future.

It will actually allow Parris Island to plan many years ahead, up to a 2020 vision of what the Depot will look like,” he continued.

That plan will provide enhanced training facilities and improved traffic flow, which will create a safer environment for the recruits and permanent personnel alike.

The success of the Depot was not confined to his own efforts, as Brig. Gen. McMenamin worked with a productive team both inside and outside of the Marine Corps.

“I think the uniqueness that we have had being here for five years stands out in my mind,” said Celia McMenamin, wife of Brig. Gen. McMenamin. “It shows that we have been able to make an impact, and I will miss the camaraderie that we have had here.”

The uniqueness of the area lends men and women who serve on the Depot to making comparisons of their lives to the multitudes of those who are just passing through recruit training.

“This is just such a wonderful

Depot improvements under Brig. Gen. McMenamin's leadership

- Directed and oversaw a complete overhaul of housing for Parris Island. The 231 homes on the Depot will be replaced with new or renovated homes, including community centers and swimming pools.
- Developed a concept to revitalize the service facilities on the Depot, including changing the defunct brig into the new “The Brig and Brew;” changing the "E" Club into the Parris Island Conference Center; constructing an addition to the Combat Fitness Center that includes racquetball courts and a cardio-vascular exercise room; and renovating the Visitors' Center.
- Spearheaded the Base Master Plan, a blueprint for development of functional zones throughout the Depot. He assisted in a design that will provide enhanced training facilities and improved traffic flow, creating a safer environment for the recruits and permanent personnel alike.
- Supervised construction of the Field Training Facility, the All Weather Facility, and the Recruiting Training Facility. He modernized the Depot’s shooting ranges, and directed the renovation of Khe Sahn Range – an automated range. He was also the driving force behind the push for the Hue City range renovation into an automated, multi-functional range.
- Handled fiscal and budget matters resulting in the major clean up at Horse Island, infrastructure improvements for heating plan and waste water and force protection projects.

place to be, you get to see the joy on the faces of the families at family day and graduation,” said Celia McMenamin. “I am so proud to be a Marine spouse, just knowing that you are a part of an organization that transforms these people into Marines. I am also a Marine parent and can relate to having children who have made that kind of commitment.”

Brigadier Gen. McMenamin’s presence has been felt by the military as well as the surrounding community, and is reciprocated.

“Obviously by the combination of the people that were here today, he is well liked not only within the Marine Corps but

also in the community,” said Maj. Gen. Jones.

Brigadier Gen. McMenamin has enjoyed his time in the Lowcountry, and he holds great appreciation for that time. It was reflected in his job performance in commanding ERR recruiting and recruit training.

“I would have to say that I am most proud of the fact that we contributed to the Marine Corps’ 100th straight month of making the recruiting mission, which is the quality and quantity that is required by the Commandant of the Marine Corps,” said Brig. Gen. McMenamin.

Along with his skill in the

realm of recruiting, Brig. Gen. McMenamin has applied his efforts toward improving the quality of life for the personnel aboard the Depot. He directed the overhaul of housing for all Marines and sailors assigned to Parris Island, including the demolition and/or relocation of more than 200 housing units. The entire inventory of homes on the Depot will be replaced with new or renovated homes.

Brigadier Gen. McMenamin also brought about a lasting impact on the quality of the recruit training experience.

“I think we have improved the physical fitness [in recruit train-

ing] and we’ve re-evaluated the training schedule, putting great young men and women out into the operating force for the Marine Corps,” said Brig. Gen. McMenamin. “On the base side, [we have improved] the support for the families, support for the trainers and the support for the people who live here on the base.”

All of the support and improvements seem to have derived from roots established within the recruiting realm, an area that is the beginning for anyone entering the service.

“He was personally responsible for a major program to modernize our long abandoned shooting ranges,” said Col. Valentin. “He directed the renovation of Khe Sahn range. He was also the driving force for the Hue City range renovation project that will include, not just the original scope of work, but will also automate it and make it a multi-functional range.”

All of Brig. Gen. McMenamin’s efforts have had a deep affect on the Depot and the community. Seeping into their personal lives, the transition after a long stay will undoubtedly be a tough one.

“Normally in the military, we move every two to three years, and I have been here five years now,” said Brig. Gen. McMenamin. “Being in one place for a long period of time, you become very attached to the people, organizations and the community. That makes it extremely hard to leave, but I am excited about going to the new job.”

Marines give donated supplies to residents

**CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq** – Marines arrived in Kharma to a sea of smiles and waving hands from Iraqi school children May 22.

It was a sign of the distinct difference Marines of 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment are making here.

Marines visited a school in Kharma to pass out school supplies, toys and other items in an effort to further cement their relationship with the citizens of Kharma. It was the latest in a series of projects Marines conducted here and one that is showcasing 1st Marine Division's "no better friend" efforts.

"It turned out to be a good day," said Maj. Lawrence J. Kaifesh, a civil affairs Marine Team Leader for 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.

Kaifesh and his Marines delivered more than 1,500 book bags filled with school supplies to Kharma students. The supplies were donated to Marines to pass out to Iraqis from Spirit of America, a Los Angeles-based non-profit organization.

The donations included book bags with school supplies, Frisbees, soccer balls and toys. There were also items for the city as a whole, including toys, medical supplies and fire-fighting gear.

The outreach effort to Kharma is focused to dispel any lingering hostilities that emerged while Marines fought

terrorist here in April. Kharma was the site of fierce fighting, with Marines killing more than 100 terrorists.

Stinger Battery MOUT training successful

**CENTRAL TRAINING AREA, Okinawa, Japan** — Moving from building to building like they were on the hunt for Saddam Hussein, Marines of 1st Stinger Battery, Marine Air Control Group-18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, conducted Military Operations in Urban Terrain exercises here May 10.

“Today we were doing MOUT training with a couple of different scenarios to train the Marines how to have a better chance of survival if they were deployed to a combat situation,” said Sgt. Michael A. Perez, platoon sergeant.

Techniques the Marines honed through the training included assaults from simulated enemy snipers, capturing simulated enemy prisoners of war, setting up a defensive position in an urban environment and preparing for squad-level attacks, explained 1st Lt. John W. March, supply officer.

“We started the morning filling up sand bags to fortify our defense,” said Lance Cpl. Jason L. Bell, avenger system maintainer. “Today ... we’ve been attacking them back.”

Compiled by the MCRD Parris Island Public Affairs Office